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Re: Submission of original research

Dear Drs. Head and Watanabe,

We respectfully submit our manuscript "Variation in Snow Algae Blooms in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia" to be considered for publication in the ISME Journal. Snow algae blooms reduce snow surface albedo, accelerating the melting of alpine snow, and possibly amplifying global warming. With samples from thirteen different mountains and over the full span of a season, our study reveals a surprising diversity and distribution of blooms. This foundational work on an important but understudied environmental microbiome will be of interest to the broad readership of ISME Journal.

The manuscript is not being considered for publication elsewhere, and we declare no conflicts of interest. Our lab strives to set high standards of reproducibility and transparency; as such, all scripts and data are publicly available for other researchers.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lynne M. Quarmby, Ph.D.

Professor